

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4034

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

S E C R E T CARACAS 4945

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VE US GY

SUBJECT: OBSERVATIONS OF PRESIDENCY SECRETARY GENERAL ON
RELATIONS BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND GUYANA

IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER THIS MORNING SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENCY SAID THAT WITH REGARD TO
GUYANA, VENEZUELA IS MUCH MORE PREOCCUPIED WITH GUYANESE
INTERNAL STABILITY, POVERTY AND OVER-FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH
COMMUNIST POWERS THAN WITH THE BORDER DISPUTE AS A SPECIFIC
ISSUE. HE SAID THE DISPUTED FRONTIER ZONE IS A SEPARATE QUESTION
WHICH CAN BE HANDLED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BUT STATED
VENEZUELA CANNOT RECONCILE THE COMBINATION OF POVERTY AND RADICAL
INFLUENCES WHICH TROUBLE HER NEIGHBOR. HE NOTED THAT THIS
COUNTRY IS STUDYING CAREFULLY MEANS BY WHICH MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL
TRADE AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS CAN BE USED TO IMPROVE OVERALL
TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND, PERHAPS, GIVE VENEZUELA A
CERTAIN POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN HELPING GUYANA MAINTAIN INTERNAL
STABILITY.
MCCLINTOCK

SECRET

NNN

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